



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Deschutes National Forest  
Crescent Ranger District

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Crescent, OR 97733  
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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** July 12, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform you that the Crescent Ranger District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan and Forest Plan Amendment. The Preliminary EA is now available for a 30-day public comment period. This letter provides a brief summary of the project and information on how to comment.

The purpose of this project is to develop a comprehensive river management plan to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated (free flowing, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values) and identify and implement Forest Service management actions needed to protect these values within the Crescent Creek corridor located on Federal lands. Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1274, as amended) specifies a comprehensive management plan will be developed for the designated river corridor. The legal description of this project from SW 1/4 of Section 11, T24S, R6E to the west section line of Section 13, T24S, R7E. Six of the ten miles of Crescent Creek designated as Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridor is managed by the U.S. Forest Service with the balance in private ownership.

Alternatives considered are the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and the Proposed Action (Alternative B). The Proposed Action would recommend a permanent boundary, change the land management allocations, and adopt a comprehensive river management plan to include Management Area 17 (Wild and Scenic Rivers), create standards and guidelines, while identifying management strategies, and thresholds to address issues to achieve the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

To reflect the changes to the boundary, the Management Area Categories (allocation) under the Forest Plan would be changed for Crescent Creek WSR. Everything within the newly adjusted corridor boundary would become Wild and Scenic, Recreational, with the exception of Old Growth Management Area (OGMA) which would be overlapped by the Wild and Scenic designation.

The Preliminary Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan and Forest Plan Amendment EA proposes a programmatic Forest Plan Amendment that is specific to the project area and is necessary to modify plan components including Standards and Guidelines and Management Area categories for lands within the river corridor. Specifically the amendment will change and finalize the boundary and change all the underlying land Management Allocations (MA) to Wild and Scenic (MA17) less the Administratively Withdrawn/Old Growth Management Area. Based on the direction provided in the revised 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219) a review of the provisions 36 CFR 219.8 through 219.11 is required for project -level Forest Plan Amendments. After a review of these substantive requirements, the following apply to the Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan EA Forest Plan Amendment: 36 CFR 219.10 (v); 219.8(a)(2); 219.9(a)(1); 219.10(a)(1); 219.10(a)(2).



The Preliminary Crescent Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan and Forest Plan Amendment EA is now available for comment. All documents, including draft resource reports, are available on the Internet in PDF format at:

[https://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=47575](https://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47575)

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon, the newspaper of record (see 218.25(a)(2)). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Written comments should be sent or delivered to the Responsible Official: District Ranger Daniel Rife, PO Box 208, Crescent, Oregon, 97733. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Those submitting electronic copies must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or Adobe Portable Document format (PDF), and must do so only to the following email address: [comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-crescent@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-crescent@fs.fed.us). Please put "CCWSR EA" in the subject line of your email. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification. Emails containing viruses or sent to other email addresses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments by electronic means to submit them by the close of the comment period and to ensure that their comments have been received.

This project will be subject to the pre-decisional objection process outlined at 36 CFR 218. Comments received during this public review of the EA will be considered, and if necessary the EA will be revised and a draft Decision Notice will then be released for a 45 day review and objection period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments during this or other public comment periods will be eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.

For further information, contact Kyle Wright, District Hydrologist, Crescent Ranger District, PO Box 208, Crescent, Oregon 97733 or call at (541) 433-3262.

Sincerely,



DANIEL RIFE  
District Ranger

cc: Kyle Wright & Lillian Cross